

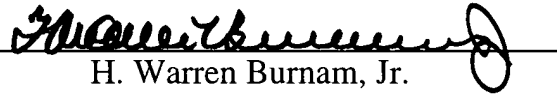
SHIMIZU et al  
Appl. No. Unknown  
December 16, 2003

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependent claims, without prejudice. The specification has been amended to include a cross-reference to the parent application.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

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